

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

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AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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SUBJECT: PLO'S FARUQ QADDUMI IN ALGIERS

1. SUMMARY. PLO'S FARUQ QADDUMI VISITED ALGIERS IN MID-SEPTEMBER AND MET WITH BOUMEDIENE AND FLN OFFICIALS. HE GAVE ALGERIAN MEDIA FULL DOSE OF PALESTINIAN VIEWS, EMPHASIZING PALESTINIAN COMMITMENT TO PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF LEBANESE CRISIS, SUPPORT FOR LEBANESE EFFORTS TO DO SO, RECOGNITION OF "CONSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENT" AS PROPER BASIS FOR LEBANESE POLITICAL DIALOGUE, AND WILLINGNESS TO IMPLEMENT 1969 CAIRO ACCORD. ALTHOUGH HE SUPPORTED LEBANESE LEFTIST DEMANDS FOR SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL AS CONDITION OF LEBANESE POLITICAL DIALOGUE AND URGED IMPLEMENTATION OF REFORMS DEMANDED BY LEFTISTS, HE DID IMPLY THAT KAMAL JUMBLATT DID NOT SPEAK FOR PALESTINIANS.

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AT SAME TIME, HE CRITICIZED MUSLIM "CONSERVATIVES"

SUCH AS KAMIL AL-AS'AD AND IMAM MUSA SADR. QADDUMI ALSO SPOKE OF PLO'S DESIRE TO REBUILD GOOD RELATIONS WITH SYRIA, SUPPORT FOR POSTPONEMENT OF ARAB SUMMIT, AND OPPOSITION TO IDEA OF ARAB CONFEDERATION. RE VISIT HERE, HE SPOKE IN VAGUEST TERMS OF ALGERIAN SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN POSITION IN LEBANON AND IN INTERNATIONAL FORA. END SUMMARY.

2. FARUQ QADDUMI, HEAD OF PLO'S POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, ARRIVED IN ALGIERS FROM TUNIS ON SEPTEMBER 12 FOR TWO OR THREE DAY VISIT AT HEAD OF OTHERWISE ANONYMOUS PLO DELEGATION. MET AT AIRPORT BY HEAD OF FLN'S LIBERATION MOVEMENTS DEPARTMENT, QADDUMI CONFERRED SUBSEQUENTLY WITH PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE AND ACTING FLN CHIEF MESSAADIA. IN KEEPING WITH GOA'S LOW PROFILE ON LEBANESE CRISIS IN RECENT MONTHS, QADDUMI'S VISIT BARELY BROKE TORPOR INDUCED BY RAMADAN, AND AS USUAL SUBSTANCE OF HIS TALKS NOT REVEALED.

3. QADDUMI DID GIVE ALGERIAN MEDIA LENGTHY INTERVIEWS IN WHICH HE MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. POLITICAL VS MILITARY SETTLEMENT OF LEBANESE CRISIS. PALESTINAINS WELCOME LEBANESE-SYRIAN-PALESTINAIN MEETINGS, AS THEY DO ALL EFFORTS TO REACH POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF LEBANESE CRISIS. IT WAS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT PALESTINIANS SIGNED JULY 29 DAMASCUS ACCORD. MILITARY ACTION IS NO WAY TO SETTLEMENT. WHAT IS NEEDED IS EFFECTIVE CEASEFIRE PERMITTING LEBANESE TO CONVENE ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE. FURTHER, SARKIS MUST TAKE OFFICE ON SEPTEMBER 23 AS SCHEDULED, AND LEFTIST DEMAND FOR WITHDRAWAL OF SYRIAN TROOPS MUST BE RAPIDLY CONSIDERED SO AS TO REMOVE POSSIBILITY OF PRESSURE ON LEBANESE POLITICAL DIALOGUE. IF RIGHTISTS AND SYRIANS ARE SINCERE IN WHAT THEY SAY, SYRIAN TROOPS MUST WITHDRAW. LEBANON BELONGS TO LEBANESE, NOT TO SYRIANS OR PALESTINAINS.

B. NATURE OF DAMASCUS ACCORD. ACCORD IS TWO-FOLD. ONE PART DEALS WITH LEBANESE-LEBANESE RELATIONS, UNCLASSIFIED

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OTHER WITH LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS. ON LATTER, QADDUMI FORESEES CREATION OF TIMETABLE FOR APPLICATION OF 1969 CAIRO ACCORD. SYRIANS AND PALESTINIANS ALSO ENCOURAGE LEBANESE TO FORM GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION UNDER SARKIS TO CARRY OUT REFORMS DEMANDED BY LEFT. LEBANESE MUST MEET AMONG THEMSELVES ON BASIS OF "CONSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENT," WHICH MUST BE SEEN AS SOUND BASIS FOR DIALOGUE.

C. VIEWS OF KAMAL JUMBLATT. JUMBALATT'S POINT OF VIEW IS AN INDEPENDENT ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF LEBANESE LEFT. HIS CONTINUING CRITICISM OF "CERTAIN LEBANESE POLITICIANS" WHO ARE RUNNING OFF TO DAMASCUS IS SIMPLY MEANT TO UNDERLINE NECESSITY OF SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL.

D. ROLE OF MUSLIM "CONSERVATIVES." INCREASING (AND UNFORTUNATE) PROMINENCE OF MUSLIM "CONSERVATIVES" SHOWS THAT LEBANESE CRISIS IS NOT SECTARIAN. THERE ARE NATIONALIST AND PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANS, JUST AS THERE ARE MUSLIMS SUCH AS KAMIL AL-AS'AD AND IMAM MUSA SADR WHO ENTERTAIN "UNSOULD POSITION."

E. SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS. THESE HAVE SUFFERED GREATLY BECAUSE OF SYRIAN MILITARY INTERVENTION AND SHELLING OF PALESTINIAN CAMPS, BUT PLO HAS SOUGHT REPEATEDLY TO AVERT CONFRONTATIONS AND CLASHES WITH SYRIANS, ARREST DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS, AND FIND WAY OUT OF LEBANESE IMPASSE.

F. ARAB SUMMIT. POSTPONEMENT OF SUMMIT TO OCTOBER 18 WILL PERMIT CLARIFICATION OF CERTAIN POINTS. SARKIS WILL HAVE TAKEN OFFICE AND TESTED INTENTIONS OF RIGHTISTS, ESPECIALLY RE PARTITION. CONSULTATIONS AMONG ARAB STATES WILL HAVE PREPARED WAY FOR AGREED SOLUTIONS. WITHOUT LATTER, SUMMIT WILL TURN INTO STERILE CONFRONTATION.

G. ARAB CONFEDERATION. CONFEDERATION OF LEBANON, SYRIA, JORDAN, AND PALESTINIAN WEST BANK-GAZA STATE UNLIKELY, BECAUSE CERTAIN STATES, ESPECIALLY JORDAN, ARE OPPOSED TO CREATION OF ANY PALESTINIAN STATE.

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THOSE WHO SPEAK OF CONFEDERATION INTEND TO STRANGLE PALESTINIAN ENTITY, ABSORB PALESTINIANS INTO VAST "FERTILE CRESCENT" STATE, AND PREVENT CREATION OF INDEPENDENT STATE FOR PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. (IN PASSING, QADDUMI REPEATS PALESTINIAN CHARGES THAT NUMEROUS SENIOR JORDANIAN OFFICERS ARE FIGHTING IN LEBANON AND SAYS THIS HAS BEEN CONFIRMED IN JEZZINE.)

H. VISIT TO ALGERIA. ACCORDING TO QADDUMI, "MY VISIT DEALT WITH PALESTINIAN - ALGERIAN RELATIONS, LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON, AND ALGERIA'S EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION IN INTERNATION FORA. PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE CONFIRMED ALGERIA'S STAND AS A PEOPLE, GOVERNMENT, AND PARTY IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION. ALGERIA

SUPPORTS PALESTINIAN STAND IN LEBANON AND WILL MAKE
EVERY EFFORT TO PARTICIPATE IN SOLVING LEBANESE
CRISIS IN WAY THAT WILL GUARANTEE INTEGRITY AND
CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION."

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